

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 984

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by  
2 videoconference call.  
3

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Sections 551.127(c), (e), (f), and (h),  
6 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (c) A meeting of a state governmental body or a governmental  
8 body that extends into three or more counties may be held by  
9 videoconference call only if the member ~~[a majority of the quorum]~~  
10 of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically  
11 present at one location of the meeting that is open to the public  
12 during the open portions of the meeting.

13 (e) The notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference  
14 call must specify as a location of the meeting the location where a  
15 quorum of the governmental body will be physically present and  
16 specify the intent to have a quorum present at that location, except  
17 that the notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call  
18 under Subsection (c) must specify as a location of the meeting the  
19 ~~[each]~~ location where the member ~~[a majority of the quorum]~~ of the  
20 governmental body presiding over the meeting will be physically  
21 present and specify the intent to have the member ~~[a majority of the~~  
22 ~~quorum]~~ of the governmental body presiding over the meeting present  
23 at that location. ~~[In addition, the notice of the meeting must~~  
24 ~~specify as a location of the meeting each other location where a~~

1 ~~member of the governmental body who will participate in the meeting~~  
2 ~~will be physically present during the meeting.]~~ The [~~Each of the~~  
3 location~~s~~] where the member of the governmental body presiding  
4 over the meeting is physically present shall be open to the public  
5 during the open portions of the meeting.

6 (f) Each portion of a meeting held by videoconference call  
7 that is required to be open to the public shall be visible and  
8 audible to the public at the [~~each~~] location specified under  
9 Subsection (e).

10 (h) The [~~Each~~] location specified under Subsection (e), and  
11 each remote location from which a member of the governmental body  
12 participates, shall have two-way communication with each other  
13 location during the entire meeting. Each participant in the  
14 videoconference call, while speaking, shall be clearly visible and  
15 audible to each other participant and, during the open portion of  
16 the meeting, to the members of the public in attendance at a  
17 location of the meeting.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013